

# Happy Birthday, Bea

## Former teacher celebrates her 100th year

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On Dec. 21, amidst the glow of the Christmas season, the Council on Aging, filled with the family and friends of Bea Chase as she celebrated her 100 birthday. Presented with a proclamation from the town by Selectman Betsy Sullivan, her life was recognized, for her 60 years dedicated to the town of Duxbury and her 30 years of teaching in the Duxbury School system.

"Mrs. Chase for many years was an active member of our community through her involvement in the Eastern Star and her volunteerism at the Unitarian Universalist Church," Sullivan read as part of the proclamation by the town. "We can all benefit from Mrs. Chase's philosophy of living life completely, but making time to assist others."

Chase was born in 1907 when Teddy Roosevelt was president – she has lived through 18 presidents. When she was born there were only 46 stars on the American Flag, John Wayne and Orville Redenbacher were also born that year. Maria Montessori opened her

first school and daycare center for working class children in Rome. A task that greatly led to the teachings in her life as a fifth grade teacher at both the Alden and Chandler school in Duxbury. She retired in 1977.

Bea and her husband Theodore, a bookkeeper, who died from a sudden heart attack in 1962, had three children. Her son Dick, whom she lives with in Duxbury, accompanied her to the party. Larry her middle son died several years ago, and her third son Bob, who was in the Army, was killed in Vietnam.

In Duxbury each year the Bob Chase Award, named in honor of her son, is given to an athlete who shows heart. The athlete may not be the star of the team, but comes to practice everyday prepared to work hard and give it their all.

Through her years of teaching her favorite subjects were everything. She loved to teach and she gave the children everything she could she said. "There are so many things you can do in the classroom," Chase said. "As a whole this is a very good town for anyone, it has a good background."

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STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Bea Chase is congratulated on her 100th birthday by neighbor Jane Brock.





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**L-R, Son Dick Chase, birthday girl Bea Chase, daughter Birgit Chase, friends Doris Handy, Bea Richards, and Susie Brown celebrate Bea Chase's 100th birthday.**

## Chase celebrates centennial

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As a mother, Chase focused on raising her family, after retirement she focused on gold, and today she enjoys caning and basket weaving. Every Tuesday she and about six other people gather at the Senior Center to weave baskets and enjoy each other's company, her friend Susie Brown said.

Brown said about 10 years ago they began caning at Bea's house, but now they stick to basket weaving. As the class grew they moved to the Senior Center where they take a class led by 97-year-old Helen Philbrick. The class

makes baskets for gifts, for fun, for storage, for anything she said. Brown said Philbrick commented on how Bea never listened to her in class.

"Well you're just a kid, she's not going to listen to you," Brown said.

Surrounded by friends Bea celebrated her milestone birthday in style. Determined to live as long as her friend Winnie, "If she can live to 102, I can too," she said. She said her favorite things in life are talking with people, being with friends, and taking trips.

"I have had a very cheerful life, one I have enjoyed," Bea said.





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Bea is filled with emotion as she is congratulated by former middle school principal Larry Hojlo whom she worked with back in 1970.

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